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08/663, 952 06/14/96 LI

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IM62/0830

EXAMINER

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1745

16

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Art Unit: 1745

Count

The product of Claim 32 of US Application No. 08/663,952 or Claim 4 of US Application No. 08/961,934.

609(b) Statement

08/663,952

Claims 11, 12, and 32 are the remaining claims in this application. Claim 32 is the most encompassing claim. All claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 32 corresponds to the count because it is identical to one alternative of the count. Claim 32 is also an obvious variation of Claim 4 of US Application No. 08/961,934 because both claims recite a particulate electrode material for a lithium electrochemical cell. The materials recited in both claims are “core materials” coated with a cobalt-doped lithium nickel oxide of the form $\text{LiCo}_x\text{Ni}_{1-x}\text{O}_2$. US Application No. 08/663,952, Claim 11 recites $\text{LiCo}_x\text{Ni}_{1-x}\text{O}_2$ as a coating material and US Application No. 08/961,934 recites “cobalt-doped lithium nickel oxide” as a coating material. US Application 08/961,934, page 3 lines 18-21 and lines 33-36 demonstrate “cobalt-doped lithium nickel oxide” is synonymous with $\text{LiCo}_x\text{Ni}_{1-x}\text{O}_2$. The terms “ $\text{LiCo}_x\text{Ni}_{1-x}\text{O}_2$ ” and “cobalt-doped lithium nickel oxide” are also well-known in the art as equivalent terms. The core material recited in US Application No. 08/663,952 may be one of: a) lithium nickel oxide; b) lithium nickel-cobalt oxide and c) mixtures thereof. The core material recited in US Application

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08/961,934 is lithium nickel oxide. Therefore, US Application 08/961,934 Claim 4 recites one embodiment of US Application No. 08/663,952 Claim 32.

Claim 11 corresponds to the count because it recites the coated cathode materials of the count and further specifies a coating layer thickness between 0.5 nm and 5000 nm. Coating thickness are parameters which are within the skill of the ordinary artisan to vary in order to optimize such factors as the amount of coating material used, the active particle surface area, or the physical integrity of the coating; such factors having an influence on battery performance.

Claim 12 corresponds to the count because it recites the coated cathode materials and further specifies a coating layer thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm. As discussed above, coating thickness is a parameter which would be within the skill of the ordinary artisan to adjust.

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